

Order, 2001 can be used by the State Governments/UT Administrations to remedy the Public Distribution System and make it transparent and accountable. States/UTs have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

PDS (Control) Order, 2001

1234. **PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have issued PDS (Control) Order, 2001 which would make cheating of foodgrains a punishable offence, etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it has helped to remove cheating and reduce complaints in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In order to streamline the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and make it more accountable and effective, Government of India has issued the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. This order contains provisions in regard to the following matters:—

- (i) Identification of families living below the poverty line;
- (ii) Ration cards;
- (iii) Scale and Issue prices;
- (iv) Distribution of foodgrains;
- (v) Licensing;
- (vi) Monitoring; and
- (vii) Penalties for violation

(c) The provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 can be used by the State Government/UT Administrations to remedy the Public Distribution System and make it transparent and accountable. Contraventions of the provisions of the orders is a cognizable offence under Section 3 of E.C. Act, 1955. It is hoped that it will help to reduce chances of malpractices.